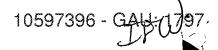
EF 10/26/2006



Attorney Docket No. 102792-616

N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT

Francesc Ayats et al.

SERIAL NO.

10/597,396

FILED

July 24, 2006

FOR

Water-Softening Method

ART UNIT

TBA

EXAMINER

TBA

Commissioner for Patents

October 23, 2006

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08.

I. Timeliness, Fees and Certifications in lieu of Fees

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or within three months of entry into the national stage, or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(b), consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement does not require a fee or a statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e). However, should the Commissioner determine that a fee is, in fact, due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

II. Copies of Listed References

Copies of all references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are being supplied.

III. Concise Statement of Relevance

The Examiner will note that the Abstracts of all references are enclosed.

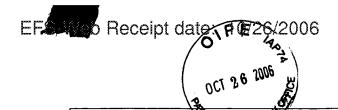
Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
NORRIS MCLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

 $_{\mathsf{By}}$ \mathcal{U} . \mathcal{W} e

Mark D. Marin Reg. No. 50,842 875 Third Avenue - 18th Floor New York, New York 10022 Phone: (212) 808-0700

Fax: (212) 808-0844



Substitute for form PTO-1449		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/597,396
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT'S		Filing Date:	August 14, 2006
		First Named Inventor	Francesc Ayats et al.
		Art Unit	ТВА
		Examiner Name:	ТВА
Sheet 1	of 1	Attorney Docket Number:	102792-616

NON-PATENT REFERENCES

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*	Cite No.		
	AA	Alexander Willgallis et al., <i>Zur Polymorphie des Na₂Si₂O₅</i> , Glastechnische Berichte 37, April 1964, 194-200.	
	AB	Von W. Hoffman et al., Über die γ - und δ -Modifikationen des Natriumdisilikates, $Na_2Si_2O_5$, Zeitschrift für Kristallographie, Bd. 129, 1969, S. 396-404.	
	AC	Zdenêk Johan et al., La kanemite, nouveau silicate de sodium hydrate de néoformation, Bull. Soc. Fr. Minéral, Cristallogr., 95, 1972, 371-382.	
	AD	Klaus Beneke et al., Kanemite-intercystalline reactivity and relations to other sodium silicates, American Mineralogist, vol. 62, 1977, pages 763-771.	

EXAMINER SIGNATURE: /Chester Barry/ (03/26/2008) **DATE CONSIDERED:** 03/26/2008

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²see Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴for Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.197 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.